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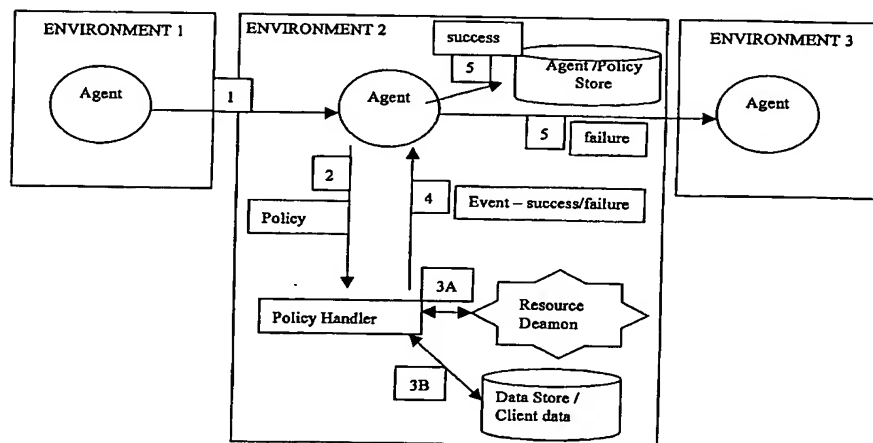
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY** [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ROBERTSON, Derrick, Diarmuid** [GB/GB]; 97D The Thoroughfare, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1AS (GB). **MCKEE, Paul, Francis** [GB/GB]; 2 Celandine Court, Braiswick, Colchester, Essex CO4 5UQ (GB).
- (74) Agent: **NASH, Roger, William**; BT Group Legal, Intellectual Property Department, PPC5A, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).
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(54) Title: **DISTRIBUTED STORAGE NETWORK**



(57) Abstract: A distributed storage network of computers is disclosed in which a determination as to whether to store a data item at a computer connected to said network is made in dependence on a policy document associated with that data item. The policy document is constructed in accordance with a Document Type Definition expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML). This provides a more flexible method of system managed storage than has hitherto been achieved.